

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9101

S E C R E T ROME 12153

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IT, US, UR, TU

SUBJ: BRAZINSKAS CASE

FOR UNDERSECRETARY HABIB AND DEPUTY ASST SECY LAINGEN (EUR) ONLY

1. DCM WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS EVENING BY POLITICAL DIRECTOR GARDINI WHO INSISTED THAT HE WAS CALLING AS A FRIEND WHO NEEDED HELP RATHER THAN MAKING AN OFFICIAL APPROACH TO THE USG.

2. GARDINI SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR RYZHOV HAD APPROACHED SECRETARY GENERAL MANZINI YESTERDAY TO ASK HIM IF HE COULD TELL HIM WHETHER THE BRAZINSKASES (FATHER AND SON) WERE IN ITALY. MANZINI WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE BRAZINSKAS AFFAIR AND WAS ABLE TO SAY HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT BUT WOULD LOOK INTO IT. RYZHOV SAID THAT HE HAD TO HAVE A REPLY BY THURSDAY, JULY 29, AS HE "HAD TO SEND A TELEGRAM TO MOSCOW".

3. MANZINI IS MOST UPSET BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS LEARNED THE FACTS OF THE CASE FROM PRINCE VON LIPPE OF UNHCR INCLUDING THE SCENE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY AT ANKARA AND "THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH THE TURKS". GARDINI SET OUT ALL THESE FACTS WITHOUT REQUIRING ANY COMMENT FROM THE DCM WHO SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO INFORM HIMSELF ABOUT THIS MATTER AND GET BACK TO GARDINI.

4. MANZINI IS HOLDING THIS MATTER VERY CLOSELY WITHIN THE MINISTRY. ONLY GARDINI AND 2 OR 3 OTHERS ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE.

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THEY HAVE NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED IT WITH EITHER RUMOR OR MORO

NOR HAVE THEY TAKEN IT UP WITH THE ITALIAN POLICE. THE ITALIANS HAVE CHECKED WITH MCKEEVER OF UFFICIO CENTRALE EMIGRAZIONE ITALIANA. MCKEEVER TOLD THE MFA THAT THE BRAZINSKAS WERE EXPECTING TO LEAVE IN A FEW DAYS EITHER FOR THE UNITED STATES OR VENEZUELA.

5. GARDINI AND MANZINI ARE TERRIFIED THAT THIS CASE WILL BLOW UP AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT WHEN THE ITALIANS ARE TRYING TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT ATTACKS FROM THE LEFT IN SUPPORT OF THE SOVIETS WHO WISH THE RETURN OF "AIRPLANE HIGHJACKERS" OR FROM THE RIGHT WHO WOULD ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF TURNING BACK FELLOW CATHOLICS WHO HAD SERVED PRISON TERMS AND PAID FOR THEIR CRIME. SECONDLY, THE MFA DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH EITHER THE TURKS OR THE U.S. OVER THIS CASE ESPECIALLY, AS THEY BELIEVE, THERE IS THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS CASE.

6. GARDINI SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO USE THE ITALIAN POLICE TO HIDE THESE PEOPLE FROM SOVIET ACTIONS AGAINST THEM. HOWEVER, FROM MANZINI'S POINT OF VIEW THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE BRAZINSKAS TO LEAVE ITALY BEFORE THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 29 PREFERABLY UNDER FALSE NAMES.

7. MANZINI AND GARDINI WISH TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM IN A MANNER HELPFUL TO US AND TO THEM. (GARDINI SAID MANZINI TOLD HIM TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM IN ANY WAY HE COULD. GARDINI ALSO SAID HE HAD TOLD NO ONE OF HIS APPROACH TO US.) FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FOR VENEZUELA OR SOME OTHER PLACE. WE NEED TO REPORT BACK TO GARDINI TOMORROW MORNING (JULY 28).

8. IN PURELY BILATERAL TERMS IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP THE ITALIANS TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. DURING THE CONVERSATION GARDINI MADE REFERENCE BOTH TO THE RUMANIAN AND SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES AS EXAMPLES OF NORMAL TRANSIT. (THESE PROGRAMS WOULD LIKELY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY ANY POSSIBLE UPROAR OVER THIS CASE.) IN ADDITION OUR OWN INTEREST IN THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE MAKES US EQUALLY RELUCTANT TO SEE THIS KIND OF A STORY BREAK WITH UNFORESEEABLE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT.

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9. OUR LAST INFORMATION ON THIS CASE WAS THAT MRS. RUDIS DEPARTED ROME JULY 22. SHE WAS PROCEEDING TO VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA IN SEARCH OF REFUGE FOR THE PAIR. WE HAVE NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM HER. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT TO ASCERTAIN FROM MRS. RUDIS (312) 385-4600 OR (312) 928-1100 STATUS OF HER EFFORTS TO OBTAIN COUNTRY WILLING TO ACCEPT THE BRAZINSKAS. ADDITIONALLY, WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY SUGGESTIONS DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE

FOR EITHER TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT REFUGE FOR PAIR WHICH WOULD
BE PASSED TO UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE ROME DIRECTLY OR THROUGH
MFA.VOLPE

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